

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes**

January 19, 2012 (Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, John Skarin, Dennis Demers, Dave Williams, Allan White and Priscilla Ryder-Conservation Officer

Absent: Michele Higgins and Lawrence Roy

Public Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability

16 Spring Lane – Maria Montes Qtenti

Maria Montes Otenti and her husband were present. They explained that they wanted to replace and repair the walls on the property. One wall is at the water's edge of Ft. Meadow Reservoir, the other walls are internal to the site. Existing walls are old railroad ties which are rotting. Mrs. Otenti provided some pictures showing the existing walls. The wall near the water is leaning over. They will replace the wall along the lake in the same place using some block walls similar to what is in the front of the house. The Commission asked about the design of the wall and the footings required. This will be determined when the exact wall type is determined. The interior wall in the back yard which is 6' tall now will be terraced with two 3' walls. The Commission discussed timing, machines to be used, erosion control and dewatering needed. The applicants replied that they would like to build the wall at the water's edge ASAP before the water rises and would like to do the rest this winter or next spring weather permitting. No dewatering is anticipated. Small machines will be used and will access through the adjacent beach property. There being no further questions, the hearing was closed. **The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to issue a Negative Determination with conditions to: 1) notify the Conservation Officer before the construction begins for each wall segment (if there is a delay between each); 2) erosion controls to be installed as needed to control runoff into the lake; 3) Pin the wall next to the water and replace it in kind in the same location.**

Request for Determination of Applicability

111 Hayes Memorial Dr. - Rinchem Company Inc.

Christian Grimms from Rinchem Company Inc. was present and explained that the company proposes to add a 12 x 16 concrete pad for an 8 x 10 self contained safety storage container. The work involves excavating out the exiting pavement which will be placed in a dumpster and removed from site. They will then pour the concrete pad. Work is just at 20' away from the wetland drainage area. The Commission agreed this was minor disturbance on existing pavement. They required a preconstruction meeting and erosion controls as necessary. **The Commission closed the hearing and voted unanimously 5-0 to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability with conditions as noted above.**

Notice of Intent

24 Hager St. - Lourival Santos

Lourival Santos was present and explained that he proposes to make improvements to the barn, existing stone walls, gates, fences, sheds and landscape features and trees, within the Buffer Zone and Riverfront Area of Hop Brook. He showed a plan highlighting all these items to be addressed. He discussed each with the Commission:

1. Fence next to shed 12' x 24' for his dogs. The Commission determined this was far enough away from the wetland and was OK.
2. Fence next to the brook is in need of replacement and repair. The Commission agreed this was a replacement in kind and would be permitted.
3. Barn is in disrepair. He would like it torn down and rebuilt on the same footprint. The Commission asked Ms. Ryder to find out from the building department if it originally had a building permit, and if it is in the floodplain and is it taxed? Ms. Ryder will check.
4. Replace walls below driveway with the rocks currently stockpiled down near the stream which were collected from the site after the septic system was installed.
5. Rebuild stone walls along the street in the same location. He wants to repair the stone wall between the driveways and the section south of the driveway to match the headwall over the stream.
6. Water feature- At the front of the house is an existing small water garden feature. He would like to repair and replace this garden.
7. The trees along Rte. 20 are old and about to fall down, he'd like to remove them and replace them with some evergreen trees. The Commission noted that this could be done as long as it was on his property and not the state layout, also that if he did this in phases, he could only clear an area that he was going to replant. Ms. Ryder will check the property line location in relation to the trees.

The Commission determined that each of these items would be acceptable projects and would not affect the wetland; however, there are still some questions about the barn, trees and the stone walls that need clarification. Therefore, the Commission continued the hearing to the Feb. 2nd meeting and asked Ms. Ryder to draft a set of conditions for review. The Commission also asked Mr. Santos to move the granite blocks as soon as the ground is frozen.

Notice of Intent

The City of Marlborough DPW – 860 Boston Post Rd. and 82 Country Lane

Dana Green, Design Manager for Easterly Waste Water Treatment Plan (EWWTP); Mike Guidice Design Engineer for Country Lane; and Magdalena Lofstedt all from CDM Smith were present to discuss this project.

Dana Green explained that there are two related projects one at the Easterly Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade and the sewer pump station upgrade at 82 Country Lane. He will discuss the EWWTP project first. The work at the EWWTP is mostly outside the 100 foot buffer zone, but some work on the driveway and drainage do affect the buffer zone.

Mr. Green provided the background for this project. The EWWTP has been issued a NPDES EPA permit with new discharge limits which requires the removal of phosphorous. There was also an enforcement order from EPA requiring the minimization of phosphorous loading in the Assabet River and Concord River watersheds. The plant was built in 1973 and has never been upgraded since. There was an older plant 100 years before, in the 20's the plant had oxidation lagoons in the back. All the equipment in the existing plant is 40 years old which will be upgraded. In doing the design, the primary concern has been to control odors. They will install 2 separate odor control systems one carbon system and one bio-filter organic odor control system. At the grit screen facility, sludge storage tank and primary settling tanks there will also be some odor control systems to reduce odors from leaving these areas.

He described the upgrades that are also proposed at the transfer station which accepts solid waste, recycling of materials including oil and light-bulbs. WeCare leases this property from the city and manages this transfer station. WeCare takes sludge generated from the EWWTP and WWTTP which is added to the WeCare digesters to make compost. The upgrade to this transfer

station facility will improve safety and security. The center containers are to be recessed into the ground for easier disposal. They will also add security cameras. A detention basin has also been added to the design and will drain across the street into a new drain outlet which drains to the wetland.

The entire project is driven by an EPA mandated deadline and is to be completed in 2014-2015.

Work in the buffer zone to the wetland will include: 1) the chain link fence removal, 2) erosion control installation, and 3) work within the existing tanks. The rest of the work is outside the Commission's jurisdiction.

Chairman Clancy asked how they will switch the head-works during construction. Mr. Green explained that they will build a new structure nearby and divert the flow during construction of the new headworks building structure. Mr. White wanted to be sure this has been properly calculated to avoid any chance for escape. Mr. Green assured the Commission that this is a good solution and it is cheaper than a bypass system. Mr. Clancy asked where the new septic hauler dump was to be located and if it had "odor" control as well. Mr. Green said they would dump into the new building and it is designed to have negative pressure, so will pull in the smell as it is designed to do. He also explained that the new WWTP has a new septic receptacle, so the amount of sewerage dumps at the EWWTP will be reduced. Mr. Clancy asked if the bio filters and clarifiers were covered. Councilor Delano also asked how much odor reduction is anticipated as he is concerned with odors for the neighborhoods and surrounding businesses. Mr. Green explained that they have looked at the system closely with an eye to reducing odors as much as possible. The edge of the tanks will have covers which will remove odors. Mr. Delano asked if the tanks could be covered. Mr. Green said they investigated that option, but the cost is astronomical and the majority of the odors will be captured with the system as designed. After further discussion about the septic issue, and sewerage delivery to the WeCare facility, Mr. Clancy asked about the transfer station process.

Mr. Green explained that they have redesigned the transfer drop off area. They are seeking a new site assignment from the Board of Health as required. He explained that the containers will be recessed into the ground to allow for easier loading from car. The leaf and yard waste would be piled on a concrete pad. The Commission discussed this and said that the material would get wet and smelly – as is the problem today. It now drains into the catchbasin, Mr. Clancy has seen sheen off this site in the past which is not good. Mr. Allen expressed concern that the organic materials would be discharging nutrients and this needed to be controlled. It was decided that the organic materials would be deposited into a bin which will be covered, so as not to add water weight; it will be removed regularly, so it does not have a chance to decompose and cause major odor problems which exist today. Mr. Green explained that the WeCare Facility has a contract with the city until 2020. He said they should look more closely at how WeCare transfers this material from the drop off area to their facility to help reduce odors there as well. They should also look at the current drainage system in the area to see what improvements can be made.

The Commission discussed construction sequencing and phasing of the project which Mr. Green explained. A drainage detention basin has been included in the design to help treat runoff during construction and once the project is completed.

82 Country Lane - Mike Guidice of CDM Smith was present to discuss the pump station upgrade. The station is 35 years old and is the biggest pumping station in the city. It works hard and is in need of replacement. The existing conditions include 10' concrete wet well, 8" line flows to the wet well under Mowry Brook. There is an existing emergency generator on site. Mr. Guidice explained that some of the structures can be reused, but they will be adding a vault

8'x10' and 8' deep to house the piping and valves for the force main. The existing pumping chamber will be abandoned and filled in place. The only excavation they are anticipating is for a valve vault and force main connection. They will also be adding a "pig" (**what is this?**) into the pipe. All work will be done within the limits of the city's easement. They will be installing a new fence around the facility 6' high chain link fence black, and will plant some evergreens around the outside to provide some screening. The Commission inquired of the timeframe. Mr. Guidice explained that they would like to award the contract in the summer and begin construction in the fall with hopes to be done in 2013. It should take 2-3 months at most. He explained that they have met with the neighbors and have offered to pave their driveway since it has been impacted by trucks turning in the area.

During construction all excess materials will be trucked away, dewatering will be necessary and the contractor hired will be responsible for determining what they would like to use. The Commission determined that the contractor would need to come before them to explain the system to be used at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Several neighbors were present. Mrs. Judy Driscoll of 88 Country Lane expressed concern with how sewer will be dealt with during construction. Mr. Guidice said they would install a bypass system. Ms. Sue Monty of 115 Farrington Circle wanted to know if there would be any effect on their property across the stream. The consultant said no work was proposed across the brook. Mrs. Driscoll asked about any additional noise with the new system? Mr. Guidice indicated it should be less with the new pumps which are quieter.

Mr. Clancy noted that he was out at the site and saw a big pile of concrete forms and wondered who's they were. Mr. Driscoll, the abutter, explained that they were his. He has been at the site for 35 years and he will work with the contractor to get them moved out of the way.

The Commission noted that some additional information about construction sequencing was still needed and continued the hearing to the Feb. 2, 2012 meeting date. Ms. Ryder was asked to draft a set of conditions as well for review at this meeting.

Discussion:

- Desert Natural Area Conservation Land – seeking funding for pitch pine forest restoration. Ms. Ryder noted that they will be submitting applications from various funding sources including DCR. She will report on progress as these are submitted.
- Project updates- Ms. Ryder provided updates on the ITAM, Vestas at Crowley Dry, 621 Sudbury St. violation and beavers on Sudbury St. which are flooding the woods in a neighbor's back yard.

Correspondence/Other Business: the following correspondence was reviewed and the Commission unanimously voted to accept and place on file.

- Letter of Recommendation for Aiden Steadman-Eagle Scout, dated Jan. 9, 2012
- Letter to Mr. McIver, Italian American War Veterans Post 45, dated Jan. 11, 2012 RE: 111 Neil St. tree clearing, violation of Determination of Applicability

Meetings

- Next Conservation Commission Meetings will be February 2nd and 16th, 2012 (Thursdays)
- Land Stewardship Trail Crew – Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 9:00 AM at Cider Knoll/Mello Family Meadow

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer